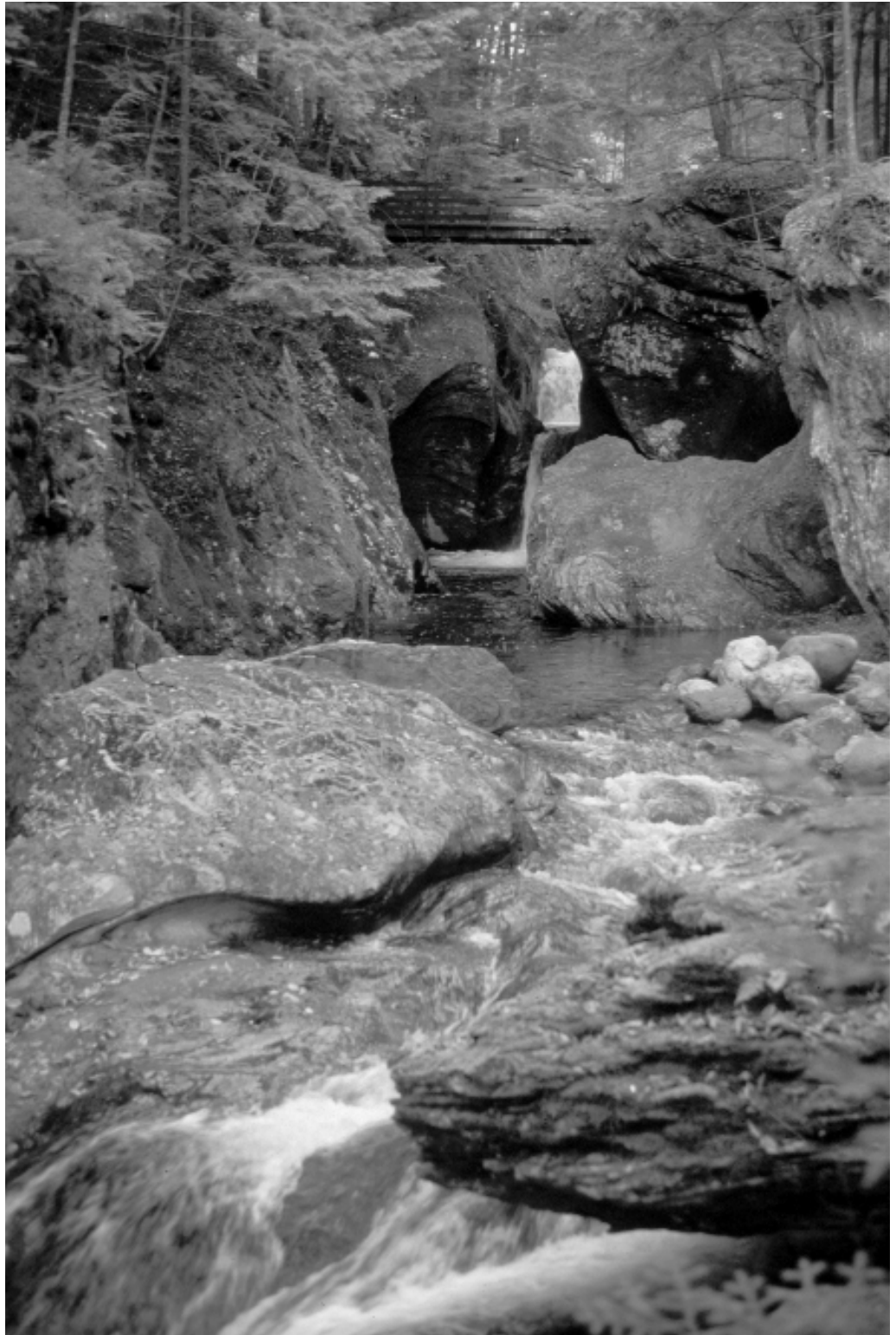


# **USDA Forest Service Management's Discussion and Analysis**



## Mission and Organizational Structure

### Mission Statement

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service's commitment to land stewardship and public service is the framework within which natural resources are managed. Implicit in this statement is the agency's collaboration with public, private, and nonprofit partners.

As one of the principle Federal agencies in natural resource management, the USDA Forest Service provides leadership in the protection, management, and use of the Nation's forest, rangeland, and aquatic ecosystems. The USDA Forest Service's management approach integrates ecological, economic, and social factors to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment to meet current and future needs. Through implementation of land and resource management plans, the agency provides for the health, productivity, and diversity of the natural resources on our national forests and grasslands. Outcomes include high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities, healthy watersheds that provide clean water, abundant wildlife and fish, improved rangeland conditions, timber, and mineral resources for current and future generations.

The USDA Forest Service is a world leader in forestry and natural resource research. By conducting and sponsoring basic and applied scientific research, the agency leads the way in increasing the knowledge and understanding of the composition, structure, and function of forest, rangeland, and aquatic ecosystems, as well as in increasing the efficient use of natural resource products.

Through technical and financial assistance, the USDA Forest Service supports all 50 States and private landowners in practicing good stewardship, promoting rural economic development, and improving the natural environment of cities and communities. The USDA Forest Service strives to develop and use the best available scientific information to meet agency goals and objectives. Domestic and international activities are directed at developing values, products, and services in such a way as to maintain ecosystem health.

### Organizational Structure

The Chief of the USDA Forest Service and the Associate Chief provide leadership at the national level from the headquarters office, located in Washington, DC. National-level policy and direction are formulated and provided to the field offices in response to Administration priorities, congressional direction, and other national issues. Six deputy chiefs, nine regional foresters, six research station directors, one area director, and the directors of the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) and International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF) report directly to the Chief.

The mission of the agency is accomplished in many ways through several different but cohesive organizational structures. In the National Forest System, regional offices link the Washington Office to individual national forests and grasslands, managed by forest supervisors. These units are subdivided into ranger districts that are managed by district rangers who report to the forest supervisor. Research and development is performed through a network of research stations and work units throughout the country, as well as at the FPL in Madison, WI, and IITF in Puerto Rico. The State and Private Forestry deputy area coordinates through regional offices and the Northeastern Area office to provide assistance to State and local governments, forest industries, private landowners, and forest users in the

management and protection of non-Federal forest land. Through International Programs, the agency works with other Federal agencies, nonprofit development organizations, wildlife organizations, universities, and international assistance organizations to link people and communities striving to protect and manage forests throughout the world.

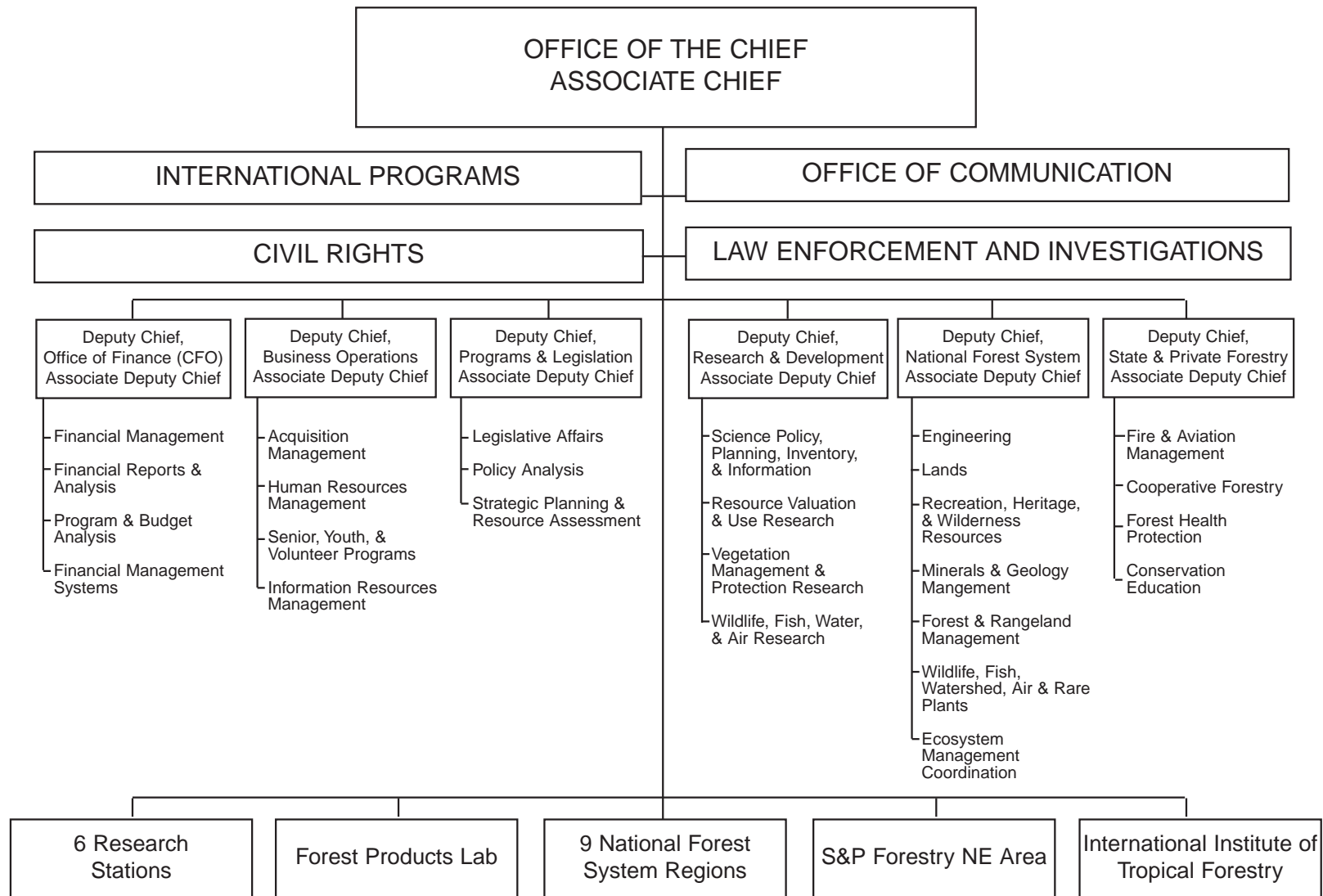
The current organizational structure is shown on page 5. A proposed reorganization, currently in the Department of Agriculture for review, is shown on page 6.

## Land Management

The USDA Forest Service is a large, geographically dispersed organization. The National Forest System comprises 155 national forests, 20 national grasslands, 5 national monuments, the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, and 6 land utilization projects. These units are located in 44 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, and encompass over 192 million acres. The USDA Forest Service regional boundaries and administrative units are shown on page 7.



# USDA Forest Service Organizational Structure



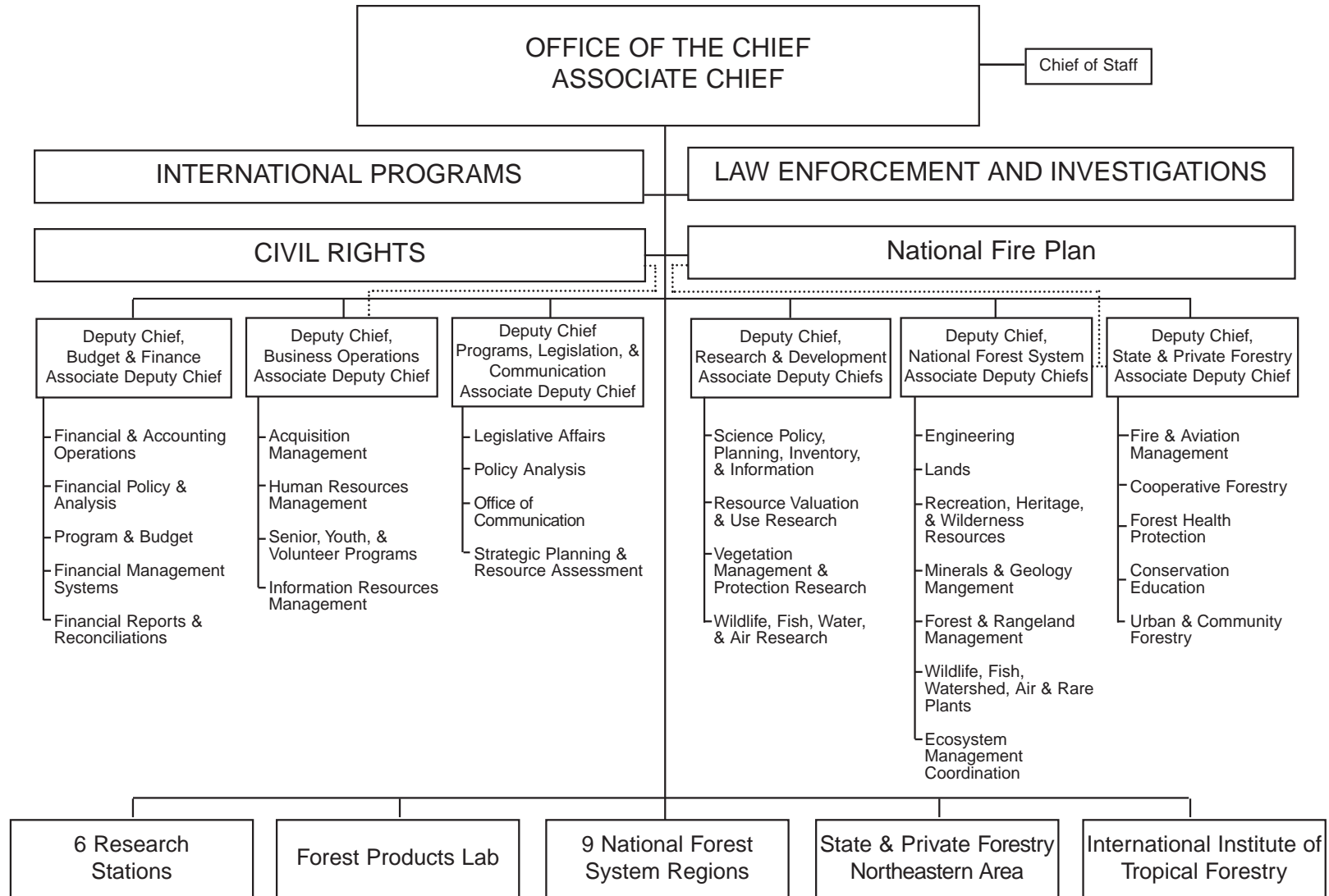
As of May 2001

Supercedes Chart Dated: June 16, 1997

Prepared by: Human Resources Management Staff, Washington Office

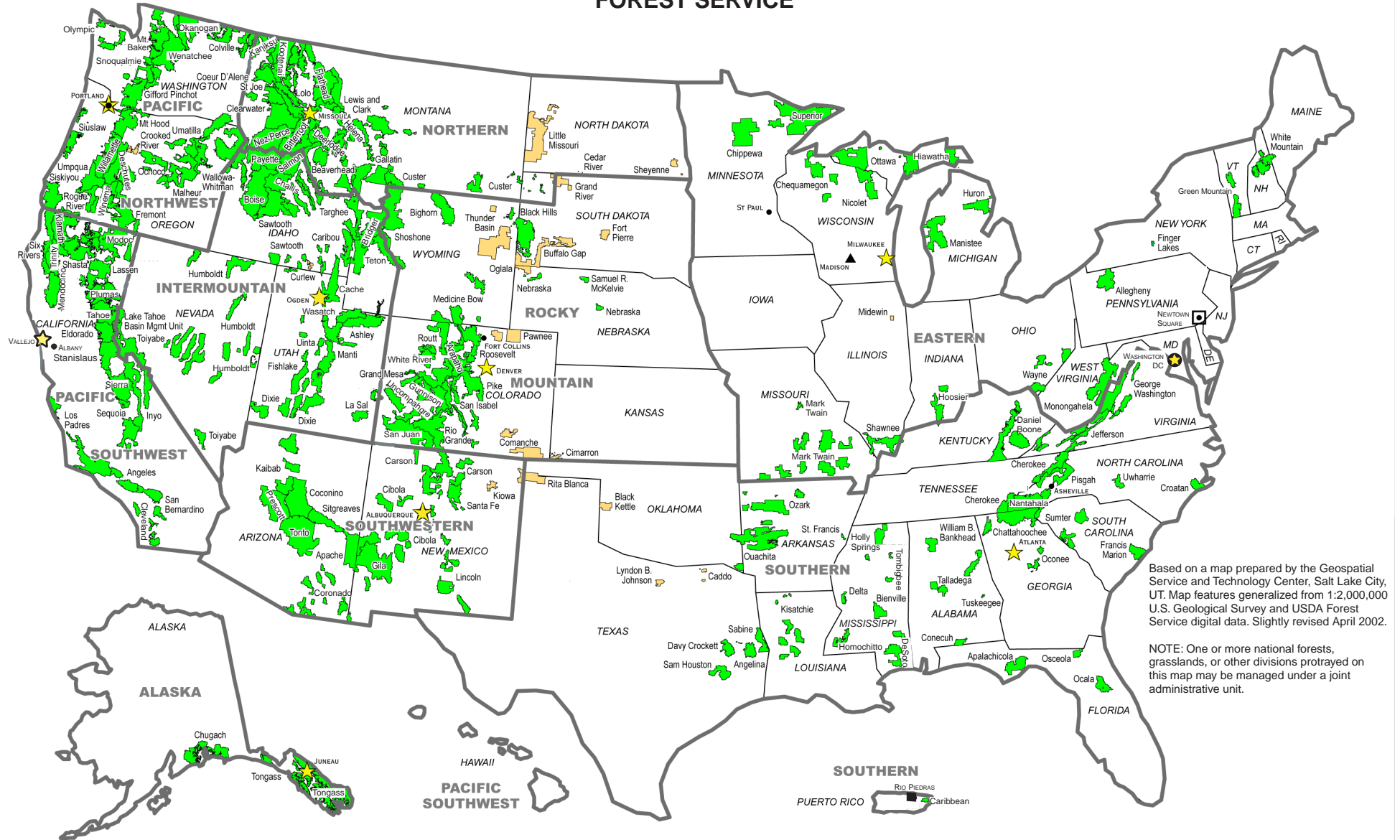
The agency manages the 192 million acre National Forest System for many purposes; administers a comprehensive research program; provides for cooperative forestry assistance to States, communities, and private forest landowners in the United States; and conducts international forestry activities in cooperation with other countries.

# USDA Forest Service Organizational Structure Proposed



Proposed to Supersede Chart Dated: May 2001  
Prepared by: Human Resources Management Staff, Washington Office

# U.S. Department of Agriculture FOREST SERVICE



Based on a map prepared by the Geospatial Service and Technology Center, Salt Lake City, UT. Map features generalized from 1:2,000,000 U.S. Geological Survey and USDA Forest Service digital data. Slightly revised April 2002.

NOTE: One or more national forests, grasslands, or other divisions portrayed on this map may be managed under a joint administrative unit.

- National Headquarters
- National Forests
- National Grasslands
- Regional Boundaries
- International Institute of Tropical Forestry
- Regional Headquarters
- Research Station Headquarters
- Forest Products Laboratory
- State and Private Forestry Area Headquarters  
(In other Regions these activities are directed from Regional headquarters)